Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Norms for opening Extra Departmental branch post offices in Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

1. **Population:**

   500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

2. **Distance:**

   The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms. The minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

3. **Anticipated Income:**

   The minimum anticipated income would be 15% of the cost.

Recognition of Unions in Department of Posts

902. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a policy of recognising unions under the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of unions and the basis of such recognition; and

(d) the facilities accorded to the unrecognized unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJARY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The unions in Department of Posts are recognized in terms of Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1993.

(c) There are 29 unions/associations in the Department of Posts out of which 18 are recognized through the check-off system of verification process.

(d) Limited trade union facilities such as (i) channel of communication; (ii) informal meetings with senior officers; and (iii) office accommodation subject to availability, have been extended to the unrecognized unions/ associations, affiliated to Bharatiya Postal Employees Federation.

Complaint against district Managers of Sanchar Nigam, Lucknow

†903. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received serious complaints against some of the District Managers of Sanchar Nigam, Lucknow, area who were receiving house rent for a long period while suppressing the fact that they were staying in Government Telephone Exchange building;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said officers have been found guilty in the vigilance inquiry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action to be taken by Government against such currupt officers; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complaint against TDM, Mainpuri only has been received.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) One room at the 1st Floor of OCB exchange building, Mainpuri was being used by the officer as a residence at Manipuri. The officer has drawn HRA from July 2001 to June 2002 as TDM Mainpuri.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.